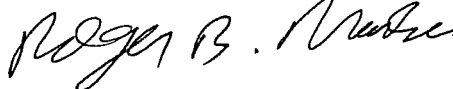


TRANSMITTAL # 2

MEMORANDUM

September 11, 2006

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Roger B. Madsen, Director 

SUBJECT: Workforce Development Training Fund (WDTF) Rural County Definition

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval to change the Rural County Definition for the WDTF program

BACKGROUND:

The Workforce Development Council created a rural component to the Workforce Development Training Fund guidelines. The guidelines currently state that a portion of the Workforce Development Training Fund resources target rural counties experiencing high unemployment rates and/or low per capita personal income.

- High unemployment is defined as 6.5% or higher annual rate;
- Low per capita personal income is defined as less than 80% of the state's per capita personal income level; and
- Rural is defined as any county that does not have a city over 20,000 in population.

Currently, rural counties are eligible to receive up to \$3,000 for each new position created, are allowed to create only one position and are not required to support an employer match. All other criteria established under the Workforce Development Training program must be met under the rural component. This definition has remained unchanged since the rural component was added to the training fund. Some confusion has occurred in the areas with local practitioners and employers. Updated information is received on a regular basis, and in many cases, with the current definition, several counties in Idaho no longer qualify for the Workforce Development Training Fund.

The only counties eligible for the rural component are Adams, Bear Lake, Benewah, Bingham, Boundary, Canyon, Clearwater, Franklin, Fremont, Gem, Idaho, Jefferson, Madison, Minidoka, Oneida, Owyhee, Power, Teton and Washington. Canyon County currently falls within the definition because per capita income is below the threshold at 74.2%.

Recommendation:

Staff is recommending that all areas of the State of Idaho be defined as rural with the exception of the following counties:

Ada
Bannock
Bonneville
Twin Falls
Nez Perce
Kootenai

This will allow 38 of the counties in Idaho to be eligible for the Rural WDTF program.

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